

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 156744

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:EFIS, PGOV, GE, US

SUBJECT:GDR FISHERIES ALLOCATION

REF: STATE 145252

1. DURING HIS JUNE 6 CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY (REFTEL), GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER AGAIN COMPLAINED OBLIQUELY ABOUT GDR'S LACK OF ATLANTIC FISHING ALLOCATION FOR 1978, TERMING IT AN ECONOMIC "BARRIER". ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO SUBJECT DURING THAT CONVERSATION, A NEGATIVE DECISION ON THE MATTER HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AND WOULD HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO FISCHER HAD TIME ALLOWED.

2. OUR ALLOCATION POLICY FOR 1978 WAS TO ALLOCATE ANY
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SURPLUS ON THE BASIS OF FOREIGN TRADITIONAL FISHERIES ON AN INDIVIDUAL SPECIES BASIS, EXCEPT IN ONSTANCES WHERE THERE MEXICO, CANADA, ETC.). AS A RESULT OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE GDR AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOME OF OUR ALLIES, ABOUT THE ALLOCATIONS, WE UNDERTOOK A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR ALLOCATION POLICY TO SEE WHAT RELIEF, IF ANY, COULD BE GIVEN. WE CONCLUDED THAT THAT POLICY WAS REASONABLE,

AND FOR THIS YEAR IT IS UNLIKELY, FOR CONSERVATION REASONS,
THAT ADDITIONAL FISH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE GDR. IF THE

STOCKS IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GDR
MAY AGAIN CONDUCT FISHERIES OFF OUR COAST.

3. IN CONVEYING THIS DECISION TO MFA, EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- OUR ALLOCATION POLICY IS BASED ON TRADITIONAL FISHING
FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIES. SINCE, FOR CONSERVATION REASONS,
DIRECT FISHING FOR MACKEREL (THE GDR'S TRADITIONAL CATCH)
HAS BEEN BANNED, THE GDR'S OVERALL ALLOCATION WAS REDUCED
TO ZERO.

-- ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE GDR AND
OTHER COUNTRIES, WE UNDERTOOK A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
THAT POLICY AND FOUND IT REASONABLE.

-- IF STOCKS IMPROVE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GDR MAY
AGAIN FISH OFF OUR COAST.

-- OUR ALLOCATION POLICY IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY SINGLE
COUNTRY BUT APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL. VANCE

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